



History of Anthropology Newsletter

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Research in Progress

- April 16 Joy Harvey (Harvard University), "Société de'Anthropologie de Paris as a Focus for International Communications on Biological Anthropology"
- April 30 Curtis M. Hinsley, Jr. (Colgate University), "'Please Call Me Alfred': The Bowditch-Tozzer Friendship and the Development of Peabody Anthropology, 1900-1920"
- May 7 Tina McChesney and Ed Wade (Harvard University), "Early American Anthropology and the Hemenway Expedition"
- May 14 Byron Harvey, "H. R. Voth and the Artifacts of Culture"

The colloquium will continue in the fall. If you plan to be in the Cambridge area, please write to History of Anthropology Colloquium, c/o Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge 02138. Participants in history, anthropology, history of science, and related fields are welcome to attend, or to suggest paper topics.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Robert Bieder will be teaching at the University of Mainz during the coming year, and will carry out research on nineteenth century German-speaking ethnologists of the American Indian.

Richard Burghart (Department of Anthropology and Sociology, School of Oriental and African Studies, London) is engaged in research on the professionalization of fieldwork in British anthropology, using manuscript sources in London and Cambridge to study the work of Seligman, Malinowski, Madel and others in the period between 1880 and 1940.

Lester Embree (Professor of Philosophy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh) is using questionnaires and other methods to carry on studies of "research groups" within anthropology--e.g., "ethnoscience" and "the new archeology"--as part of a broader project which combines phenomenology and approaches of the human sciences (in the manner of the "new philosophy of science") in order to elucidate the development of science through the study of concrete cases.

Victor Golla (Professor of Anthropology, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.) is using manuscript and other sources to study the development of Edward Sapir's ideas on linguistic interrelationships, typology and the psychology of language.

Greg Marlowe (Doctoral Candidate in History, University of California, Santa Barbara) has National Science Foundation support for research on "W. F. Libby and the Development of Radiocarbon Dating, the Nascent Years, 1945-1954: A Case Study in Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration." The project will use manuscript sources and taped interviews to investigate Libby's early contacts with archeologists and their response to the introduction of the new dating method.

Joan Mark (Research Associate, Peabody Museum, Harvard University) is at work on a biography of Alice C. Fletcher, nineteenth century American ethnographer of the Omaha Indians.

Donald J. C. Phillipson (Hall's Rd., Carlsbad Springs, Ontario) is doing research on the history of the scientific community in Canada, 1882-1962, with attention to the development of new disciplines, including linguistics and the role of Edward Sapir.

Jay Ruby (Professor of Anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia) is doing research on the history of visual anthropology, focusing on the work of Franz Boas. Ruby is also interested in the use of dioramas in museums at the turn of the century, and in the use of live performers at various international expositions.

Britta Rupp-Eisenreich (Maître-assistant à l'École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris) is doing research on the specific features and conditions of the emergence of ethnology in German-speaking countries from the eighteenth century to 1885.

William Schneider (Department of History, University of North Carolina, Wilmington) is continuing his research on the Anthropological Society of Paris and anthropology in international exhibitions in the late nineteenth century.

Alexander Spoehr (Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh) is doing research on the men in the Pacific Islands area who provided Lewis Henry Morgan with information for his Systems of Consanguinity.

BIBLIOGRAPHICA ARCANA

I. THE POTLATCH AS EXEMPLAR OF AN HISTORICAL THEORY OF SCIENCE

Signe Seiler (University of Mainz) has just published a book entitled Wissenschaftstheorie in der Ethnologie: zur Kritik und weiterführung der Theorie von Thomas S. Kuhn an hand ethnographischen Materials (Dietrich Reimer Verlag, Berlin, 1980). Mainzer Ethnologica Band I. Using the earlier work of the Frankfurt School (Adorno, Marcuse, and Habermas) to develop the paradigmatic theory of Thomas Kuhn into an "historical theory of science," Seiler chooses as an example the history of North American cultural anthropology. The substantial core of the book centers on an analysis of the literature pertaining to the potlatch festival of the Indians of the Northwest Coast of Canada. The potlatch has previously been interpreted as a product of historical events, as the expression of an independent psychic configuration, and as part of a culturally-oriented ecological system of adaptation. Seiler's analysis aims to determine how, in addition to the "objective" description of reality, metaphysical and social assumptions predetermined the structure of investigation. The conventional theory structure has been questioned from both a scientifically theoretical viewpoint and from that of ethnology (e.g., Hymes, Scholte, Berreman, Gough, Diamond, Wolf, Despres,